

2. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the remotely-assigned address information comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address assigned to the given device by an external network element.

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A4 8. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein a given one of the sets of address substitution information for a particular one of the plurality of devices comprises a set of IP addresses, each of which is sub-network compatible with an IP address remotely assigned to the corresponding device, such that communications between the given device and another one of the devices attached to the local network are not routed through an external network element.

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A5 11. (Amended) A method for use in interfacing a local network to one or more external network elements, the method comprising the steps of:

determining, in a gateway coupled between the local network and the one or more external network elements, remotely-assigned address information for a given device attached to the local network; and

establishing a substitution address for use by at least one other device attached to the local network when communicating with the given device, based at least in part on the remotely-assigned address information.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein the remotely-assigned address information comprises an Internet protocol (IP) address assigned to the given device by an external network element.

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A6 18. (Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein a given one of the sets of address substitution information for a particular one of the plurality of devices comprises a set of IP addresses, each of which is sub-network compatible with an IP address remotely assigned to the corresponding device, such that communications between the given device and another one of the devices attached to the local network are not routed through an external network element.

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A7 21. (Amended) A machine-readable medium storing one or more programs for use in interfacing a local network to one or more external network elements, wherein the one or more programs when executed by a processor implement the steps of:

determining, in a gateway coupled between the local network and the one or more external network elements, remotely-assigned address information for a given device attached to the local network; and

establishing a substitution address for use by at least one other device attached to the local network when communicating with the given device, based at least in part on the remotely-assigned address information.